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Conservation Commission Minutes 07/05/2007

ARLINGTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

JULY 5, 2007

Mr. White called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the second floor conference room of the Town Hall Annex. Present were Ellen Reed, David White, Catherine Garnett, Tim Sullivan, and William O'Rourke of the Commission. Nathaniel Stevens, Associate Member Chuck Tirone and Judith Hodges were not in attendance. Brian Gillespie and Amy Hedler attended for 45 Hopkins Rd. David and Lauren Kopans and David Whitney attended for 2 Princeton Rd. Kim Turner attended for 9 Dudley St Place. Joey Glushko, Kevin Barbera, Chris Leich, Brian Rehrig, Elizabeth Terry, Patience and Dick Terry were also in attendance.

7:30 p.m. - COMMISSION BUSINESS

Ms. Glushko, Planner, Town of Arlington, asked if there was a volunteer to coordinate with a committee to redesign Wellington Park. The work might include trails, tennis courts, playgrounds, plus the previously permitted ropes courses. Mr. White said that he would work on this committee.

Sullivan/Garnett motioned to pay the MACC dues bill from FY07; motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Beckwith asked the Commission to review a plan to connect the squash building at the Winchester Country Club to a sanitary sewer and decommission the existing sess pool. The board said that they could file an RDA since more info is needed to see if this triggers an NOI, but if the work stayed within the adjacent tennis court and away from Herbert Meyer Brook that this might be sufficient. Ms. Beckwith would notify the consultant for this project.

Mr. White reported that Charlotte Pierce had scanned the Walking Book and the bill was for \$387.50. Reed/Garnett motioned to pay this bill from the Education Fund; motion passed unanimously.

7:45 pm - 2-4 PRINCETON RD - REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION OF APPLICABILITY for third floor addition

Mr. Whitney described the work to include the finishing of the un-done portion of the third floor of a two-family home. There would be no change to the existing footprint of the house.

Mr. Tirone asked that the dumpster be covered during the work.

The plan sheet included three parking spots on the lawn area near the pond. The Commission is not approving the placement of any additional parking spots in the Buffer Zone to Spy Pond.

Reed/O'Rourke motioned that even though the work is within the Buffer Zone to Spy Pond, that it will not have an impact to the resource area, so no Notice of Intent needs to be filed; motion passed unanimously.

8pm - 45 HOPKINS RD - NOTICE OF INTENT, DEP File No. 91-191 for landscaping and fence with gate

This public hearing was closed June 21, 2007, the Commission deferred voting on the decision in order to carefully consider the issues.

Ms. Reed expressed dismay that the board did not vote at the last meeting, as the homeowners have been very patient with the long process for such a minor amount of work.

Ms. Garnett spoke to the need to carefully consider a couple of issues. She conferred with a couple of her colleagues to confirm the public access issue. The Chapter 91 laws give access rights to the water body, as Spy Pond is a Great Pond, but not to the adjacent land. The Conservation Commission can issue a ruling on the proposed activity, not on the property line.

Ms. Garnett expressed her hope that some accommodation could be made for public access with the homeowners, with certain constraints, such as closing at dusk, gates, coordination with public education to control littering, abuse of rights.

Mr. Tirone met with the homeowners regarding erosion controls and that since the work was mainly handwork that they were all set.

Mr. Barbera's lawyer sent a letter on 7/2/07 regarding the property lines. This was received after the hearing was closed.

Mr. Leich stated that the Commission should think long and hard about what we are doing.

Sullivan/O'Rourke motioned to approve the proposed landscape work; motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Beckwith stated that she would email the neighbors when the permit had been issued.

Mr. Gillespie made a final comment that he found the discussion at the last meeting difficult and they have tried to keep the discussion with the neighbors open. It was difficult to hear feedback from public that thought they had rights on their property. He is restating that a few neighbors have access. The proposed landscaping will improve the habitat and there is plenty of access to the pond at other locations.

Ms. Hedler asked when she could start work. Ms. Beckwith thought that the permit could be issued within a week.

Mr. Terry confirmed that it wasn't just himself that used the old path, that there were other occasional walkers and path users.

8:30pm – 9 DUDLEY ST. PLACE- AMENDMENT to ORDER OF CONDITIONS, DEP File No. 91-188

Kim Turner and the property owner presented the revised plan drawing of the building construction.

Reed/Garnett motioned to approve the modifications with no additional conditions; motion passed unanimously.
COMMISSION BUSINESS (cont.)

Mr. White discussed the Cookes Hollow project and how the additional CDBG funding would alter the project considerably so a new scope would be written.

Ms. Garnett discussed the Reservoir Planting project and the probable delay til next year.

Meeting adjourned at 10 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Corinna Beckwith
Administrator